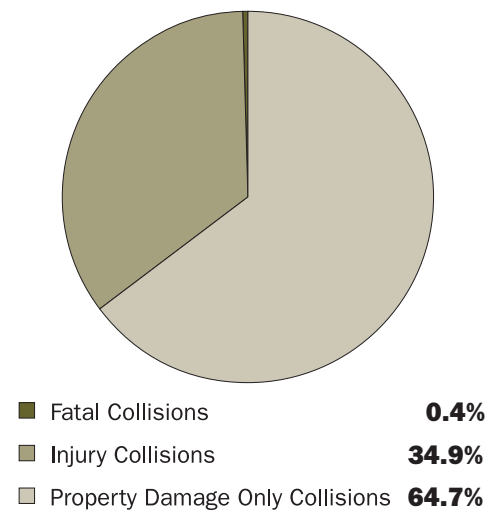


Number of Injury and Fatal Collisions Drops for Fourth Straight Year

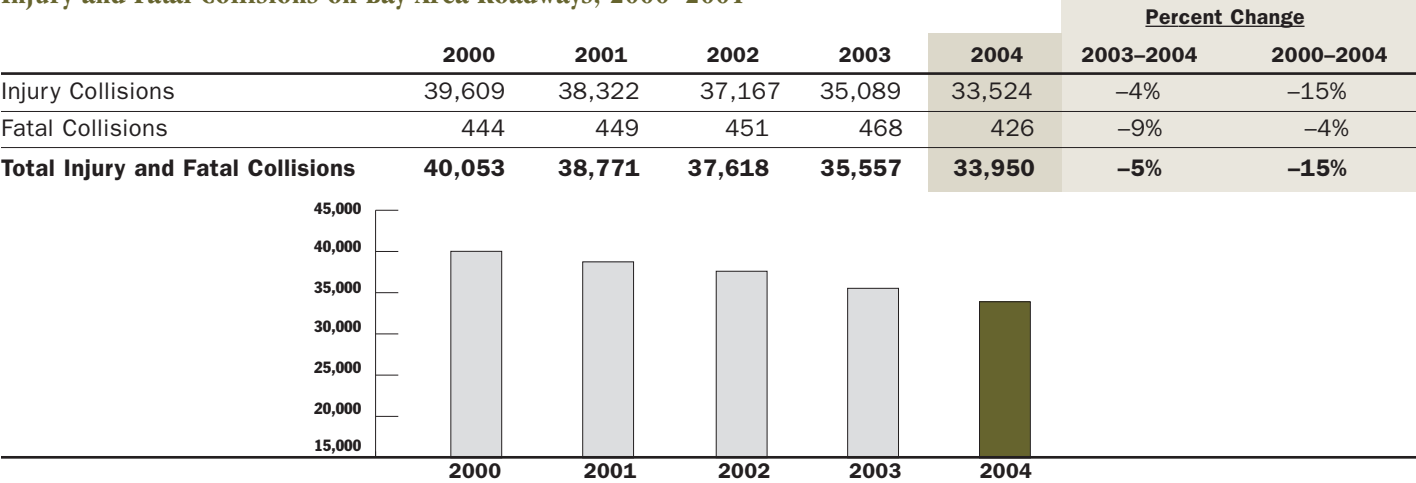
- The number of reported injury and fatal motor vehicle collisions in the Bay Area fell 5 percent in 2004, to just under 34,000. This follows a 5 percent decrease in 2003, and marks the fourth straight annual decline in the number of such incidents. The 2004 total is 15 percent lower than the recent high of 40,053 injury and fatal collisions in 2000, and is the lowest of any year in the past 10.
- After increasing each of the prior five years, the number of fatal collisions in 2004 decreased 9 percent to 426.
- Fortunately, most motor vehicle collisions do not result in injuries or fatalities. In 2004, 65 percent of collisions involved property damage only, which is in line with prior years. Approximately 35 percent of collisions resulted in injuries, and less than one-half of one percent caused fatalities.

Motor Vehicle Collisions in the Bay Area
In 2004: Fatal, Injury, Property Damage



Source: California Highway Patrol
96,069 collisions = 100%

Injury and Fatal Collisions on Bay Area Roadways, 2000–2004

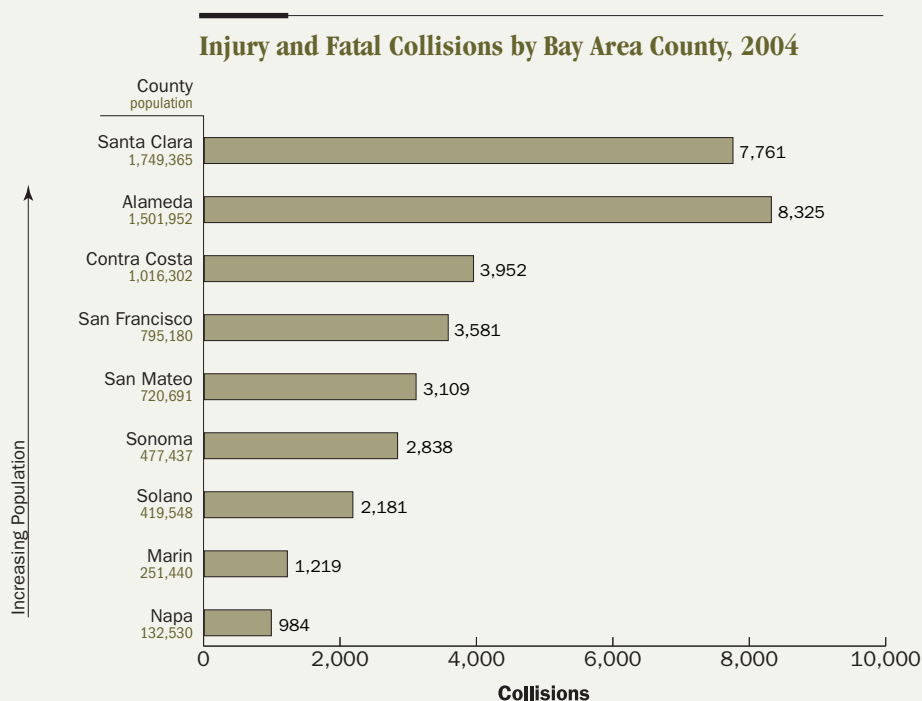


Source: California Highway Patrol

- The 96,069 reported collisions in 2004 represented a 5 percent drop compared to 2003, when 100,751 collisions were reported.
- Several key factors influence the number of collisions. These include: driver education and behavior, vehicle

safety features, roadway conditions, traffic congestion and total number of miles driven. Studies suggest that while freeway driving accounts for approximately 60 percent of all miles driven in the Bay Area, only about 25 percent of all collisions occur on freeways.

A Closer Look — We can get a rough idea of the geographic distribution of injury and fatal collisions by breaking them out by county of occurrence. In general, a given county's share of collisions correlates closely with its size, as measured by population (see bar graph). The greatest number of collisions occur in Alameda County, though it ranks second to Santa Clara County in terms of population. This is probably explained by the fact that Alameda is a “crossroads” county, within whose borders a significant number of vehicle miles of travel are logged each year — both by its own residents and those from other counties.



Sources: California Highway Patrol, California Department of Finance